

Ryshkov meets Aziz, urges ceasefire

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryshkov met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz Tuesday and urged a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. TASS news agency said. But the report gave no indication that Moscow had budged from its refusal to join efforts to force Iranian compliance with a United Nations call for a ceasefire. Ryshkov told Aziz that United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a truce "has all the essential ingredients for a fair and comprehensive resolution of contentious problems," TASS said. The United States and Arab Gulf states have pressed Moscow for an arms embargo against Iran to force acceptance of a ceasefire. Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Moscow last week to seek Soviet help on the issue. Moscow has insisted that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar be allowed more time to mediate a truce. Moscow has also said that an arms embargo against Iran should be accompanied by the replacement of Western naval vessels sent to protect shipping in the strategic waterway with a U.N. naval force.

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Regent sends good wishes to Sri Lanka

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene congratulating him and the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the country's Independence Day. Prince Hassan wished Jayewardene continued good health and the Sri Lankan people further progress and prosperity.

Kinnoch due in Middle East

LONDON (R) — British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnoch will visit Egypt, Jordan and Israel from Feb. 14-21, his office announced Tuesday. A statement said Kinnoch, who will be accompanied by his wife, Glenys, would be the guest of the three respective governments and would visit the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza during his trip. "The purpose of his visit is to see at first hand the current situation in the Middle East, and to discuss possible solutions with those immediately responsible and those directly affected," it added.

Afghan foreign minister on Arab tour

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakeel said Tuesday on a tour of four Arab countries to discuss economic ties, Radio Kabul reported. The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said Wakeel will visit Kuwait, Libya, Syria and Jordan. He will brief Arab leaders on Afghan President Najib's offer of national reconciliation and economic relations with Islamic countries, the report said. It gave no further details.

Clergyman assails Israeli policy

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Israel's "iron-fisted" policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will not bring peace to the region, the president-bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East said Tuesday. "The behaviour of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not conducive to peace," the Rt. Rev. Samir Kafy, a Jordanian, told a news conference. "The breaking of banks will not help the situation." Israeli officials "have lately exercised an iron-fisted policy, and this will not help."

Egypt, Israel extend Taba talks

GENEVA (R) — Egypt and Israel will extend their efforts to settle a dispute over the tiny Israeli-held Taba coastal strip, diplomats on both sides said Tuesday. A three-member conciliation group, due to have ended its work by Monday, has instead agreed to keep on talking, the diplomats said.

Major U.S. banks cut prime rate

NEW YORK (R) — Major U.S. banks cut the prime lending rate by a quarter point to 8.5 per cent Tuesday in response to further signs of weakness in the U.S. economy. The move followed a government report that the index of leading indicators, a key barometer of the economy, fell in December for the third month.

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King arrives in Paris after securing Italian support for peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

PARIS — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Paris Tuesday from Rome after securing Italian support for Jordan's efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The King, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, was received upon arrival by French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimondi and senior French officials. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker joined His Majesty in Paris and will accompany the King on the next phase of his current European tour.

During his stay in Paris, the King is expected to hold talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and other French leaders on efforts to achieve peace in the

Middle East through a U.N.-sponsored international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Rome, the Italian government issued a statement endorsing Jordan's endeavours for Middle East peace.

The statement said Italy and Jordan agreed that the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza had given new urgency to the search for a Middle East peace conference.

The statement said the King and Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini had discussed the situation in the occupied territories.

(Continued on page 3)

American veto kills Security Council resolution

U.S. denies having detailed proposal for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said Tuesday it was actively engaged in seeking a Middle East peace settlement but denied it had put forward detailed new proposals for Palestinian "autonomy" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The White House statement, issued by spokesman Martin Fitzwater, came one-day after the U.S. vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for U.N.-sponsored peace talks on the Middle East, saying it would interfere with the new American diplomatic initiative.

Fitzwater said Tuesday the administration had not changed

its policy of trying to promote direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs in order to solve the Palestinian problem.

Fitzwater was asked if special presidential envoy Philip Habib, who has conferred in recent days with King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, had specific fresh proposals for a Middle East settlement.

"He doesn't. Habib has a lot of different ideas for doing what our policy has always been — promote direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. There is no plan, no proposal," Fitzwater told reporters.

Asked if the administration

was expecting results from a flurry of diplomatic activity in recent weeks involving U.S., Israeli and Arab officials, he said: "That's what we hope... we are actively engaged in the peace process."

Secretary of State George Shultz, in brief remarks on the Middle East to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "We will be energetic in our consultations with leaders in both Israel and the Arab community as we seek to spur a new drive toward peace."

Shultz told the committee that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy might visit the

(Continued on page 4)

Mubarak arrives in Morocco for talks with Hassan II

MARRAKECH (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Morocco Tuesday after a visit to Paris, where he criticised the American veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution on Israeli practices.

King Hassan II was at the Marrakech airport to greet Mubarak who last visited Morocco in 1984. Mubarak is to remain here three days.

Before leaving Paris, the Egyptian president said the United States veto "doesn't help the present situation."

"It would have been preferable for the United States to abstain. As partners in the peace process, they should not have used the veto."

The United States was the only country on the 15-member Security Council to vote against the resolution criticising Israel for its handling of Palestinian protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the past month.

French Premier Jacques Chirac, who met with Mubarak during his two-day Paris visit, said the U.S. veto "is their (the Americans') problem."

In supporting the resolution, France did not vote against Israel, Chirac said, but expressed its "preoccupation" with Israel's methods of quelling protests in the occupied territories.

Diplomats said King Hassan and Mubarak would discuss the Egyptian leader's proposal for a six-month truce in the Israeli-occupied territories prior to an international peace conference on the Middle East.

They are also expected to discuss the new U.S. initiative aimed at halting violence in the occupied territories.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid denied suggestions that the U.S. plan, reported by Israeli sources as calling

for direct talks between warring parties, undermined Mubarak's own proposals.

"I do not believe the American position is limited to direct negotiations," Abdul Meguid told Reuters in Paris after a breakfast hosted by Mubarak for President Francois Mitterrand and Chirac.

"Judging by what we were told in Washington, the U.S. government wants to study the idea of a conference," he added.

Abdul Meguid was asked if veteran U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who made a surprise trip to Paris Sunday to meet Mubarak after visiting King Hussein in Amman, had said Washington was still considering the conference plan.

"That is the framework in which we talked with Mr. Habib. But I am telling you what we understand from our contacts in Washington, that the United States is prepared to consider the conference idea which could end in direct negotiations," he said.

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Amal did not say how many Israelis were among the casualties.

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Resistance reports 20 SLA casualties

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Resistance fighters said they killed or wounded more than 20 militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in fierce fighting.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, confers with Kuwaiti Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri (centre) in a meeting Tuesday attended by Minister of Higher Education Nasreddine Al Assad (Petra photo)

Regent reaffirms support for Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday voiced Jordan's total support for Kuwait in confronting any aggression on its territory or territorial waters, and said that Jordan was sought to deepen its relations with Kuwait.

Prince Hassan was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with Kuwaiti Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri, in the presence of Minister of Higher Education Nasreddine Al Assad and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahou.

The Crown Prince underlined the need to increase bilateral cooperation in the field of education through the exchange of expertise, teachers and curricula.

He called for the establishment of an information network for Arab countries, through satellites, to boost cooperation between Arab universities by facilitating the flow of information among them.

The Kuwaiti minister lauded Jordan's role in serving Arab

(Continued on page 3)

'Peace ship' to sail from Salonika to Haifa Feb. 10

By Hamadah Farahneh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A "peace ship" carrying Palestinians deported from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will sail from the Greek port of Salouka Feb. 10 heading for the Israeli port of Haifa, informed sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the ship would call at Larissa, Cyprus, and Port Said, Egypt, before dropping anchor off Haifa until the expelled Palestinians aboard were allowed to return to their homeland.

Passengers aboard the vessel will include Palestinian personalities from all walks of life and the ship will be accompanied by another ferry carrying world personalities, including former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, representatives of the Capucin order, from Eastern and Western Europe and the U.S. and others, the sources said.

Throughout the cruise, press

conferences will be held and the voyage of the "peace ship" will be transmitted live to all world countries.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said that the voyage is intended as a high sign that Palestinians are willing to return to their homeland peacefully and establish "a real, honorable peace" with Israel and also a means to pressure Israel to revoke its expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. The U.N. Security Council issued two resolutions in December deplored the Israeli practice.

A list of 198 people from Jordan who are expected to be aboard the vessel was available to the Jordan Times Tuesday. The captain of the Greek car ferry said Tuesday his vessel would probably be used as the "peace ship."

Skipper Zanes Kouloubis told Reuters the ship was scheduled to leave Greece next Tuesday. "But we have not signed the contract yet and we are still awaiting approval from the Greek government," he said.

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Iran has been mobilising for a major offensive since November.

Meanwhile Iran's top war

spokesman said a major offensive

planned against Iraq would be

cancelled if the United Nations

declared Baghdad "the aggressor."

Crown Prince reviews bilateral ties with Indonesian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conferred at the Royal Court Tuesday with Indonesian Minister of Youth Abdul Ghafour Edris, who is on a four-day official visit to Jordan.

The minister conveyed greetings from the Indonesian president for His Majesty King Hussein and for Prince Hassan, and lauded Jordan's role in promoting Arab-Islamic relations.

Edris also said that his country was looking forward to increasing its relations with Jordan in various fields.

During the audience, the Crown Prince stressed the importance of building strong bridges of cooperation between the two countries on all levels especially in the fields of youth, sports and culture. He said Jordan had always sought to strengthen its ties with Asian countries.

The Indonesian minister, who arrived here Monday, later visited the Queen Alia Health Centre at the Al Hussein Medical Centre. Accompanied by the Minister of Youth Abd Ghafour Edris, the Indonesian minister toured the centre and was briefed

on its services. Edris and Ghafour Edris later held talks at Al Hussein Youth City, reviewing bilateral cooperation in sports and youth.

Ghafour Edris briefed Edris on his ministry's programmes for developing sports centres, and the Kingdom's support for boy scout and girl guide activities, sports

federations and youth centres throughout the country.

The Indonesian minister described to Ghafour Edris the work of the Higher Council for the Welfare of Youth in Indonesia.

Later, the two ministers called at Al Ahli Sports Club, where they watched national folkdance performances.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday holds an audience with Indonesian Minister of Youth Abdul Ghafour Edris for discussions on bilateral cooperation in the fields of youth, sports and culture (Petra photo)

Princess Basma chairs advisory panel meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who is also chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) presided over a meeting for the recently-established Advisory Committee for Children's Programmes.

Participants in the Monday meeting studied ways to develop services at the 19 QAJSWF centres and to upgrade performance of staff at these centres.

It was agreed during the meeting to design training courses for kindergarten teachers, as well as

Tabbaa' arrives in Tunis for economic council session

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa' Tuesday arrived here at the head of the Jordanian delegation to the 44th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council which opens here today.

The council will discuss the role of the pan-Arab organisations and collective Arab security and work. In particular, it will review the recommendations of the 8-member ministerial committee which evaluated the situations of the specialised Arab League

organisations.

Earlier Tuesday, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General, Mohammad Al Saqaf discussed with Tunisian Minister of National Economy Al Mumtaz Al Zayadi scopes of economic and commercial cooperation.

Saqaf and Zayadi discussed support for the Jordanian trade centre in Tunis and the arrangements currently underway for holding a Jordanian industrial exhibition in Tunis in April.

Haj Hassan, port director discuss Aqaba development

AQABA (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Tuesday voiced the government's interest in developing Aqaba port, in view of its role in supporting both the Jordanian and the Arab economy.

At a meeting with Aqaba Port Corporation Director General Eid Al Fayed, Haj Hassan said that the ministry gave special priority to the corporation's projects.

Fayed briefed the minister on the corporation's current operations, as well as its plans to upgrade the performance of its

staff. The corporation collected JD 37 million in 1987, according to its director.

After a tour of the port corporation, the minister inaugurated the services compound set up by the corporation to facilitate the work of merchants and navigation and clearing companies.

He then inaugurated Aqaba District Telecommunications Department, which was recently established to expand and modernise postal services in the district.

The minister wound up his tour with a visit to Aqaba railway station.

King arrives in Paris from Rome

(Continued from page 1)

ready to make a concrete contribution to promoting dialogue and increasing the chances for negotiations on the Middle East. King Hussein met Pope John Paul Monday as part of a mandate he received at last November's Arab summit in Amman to represent Arab leaders in contacts with the Holy See.

After the meeting, the Vatican issued a statement strongly defending Palestinian rights and underlining its disapproval of Jerusalem's status as Israel's "capital."

The King's talks with Goria also dealt with the situation in the Gulf region and the need for putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 398, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

King Hussein also met Tuesday with former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who is chairman of the Italian Socialist Party and Giovanni Spadolini, Senate speaker, and discussed with them the developments in the Middle East region and the efforts made to convene an international peace conference.

The King met Italian President Francesco Cossiga Monday and briefed him on his talks in Amman last Saturday with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to Italian officials present at the meeting.

The King also met in Rome Monday night with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Meguid who passed on a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The King arrived in Paris three hours after Mubarak departed for Rabat. Mubarak had spent three days in Paris discussing Mideast peace efforts with French government officials including Mitterrand.

Regent reaffirms support

(Continued from page 1) minister and his delegation visited the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre, where they were briefed on the centre's development and activities. The centre is currently training 26 students from Kuwait.

Hindawi, Nouri visit Sahab school

Nouri was accompanied after

wards by Minister of Education Thouqan Hmidawi on a visit to the Sahab Industrial School, where they inspected workshops and training facilities.

They also visited the University of Jordan and met President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who briefed them on the development of the university over the past 25 years and educational programmes.

Jordan, EC hold talks on cooperation in development

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the European Community (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) met here Tuesday with the Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh for talks on Jordan-EC cooperation in implementing development projects in the Kingdom.

At a meeting with Hmoud, the delegation was briefed on Jordan's efforts to develop agriculture in the Jordan Valley region. The minister described problems encountered by farmers, particularly difficulties in marketing Jordanian products abroad in view of strong competition from East European countries and Turkey.

The Jordanian government has been applying the agricultural patterns system in order to diversify agricultural production and prevent bottlenecks in marketing, Hmoud said.

The government also set up the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) to help control agricultural trade and the marketing of local produce, the minister added.

He said some of Jordan's crops had found their way into European countries, such as Britain, France, Switzerland and West Germany, in addition to being sold in Arab countries and the Gulf states.

Hmoud briefed the visitors on Jordan's endeavours to reclaim semi-desert land and highlands in order to increase food production, and said the government recently embarked on a JD 33-million project to develop the Zarqa River Basin, increasing agricultural land by at least five million dunums.

The minister also briefed the visitors on the development of the Hammar Basin — an area close to the borders with Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria. The joint project aims to develop pasture land, increase animal wealth and improve the living conditions of the local inhabitants, Hmoud noted.

In the south, the government has leased state-owned land to local companies for agricultural development, particularly for increasing cereal production, he added.

During the meeting, Hmoud also briefed the delegation on the "green belt" project which aims to stem the encroachment of desert on arable land and the wildlife reserve scheme.

The EC-EIB delegation later called on the finance minister, who discussed with them investment opportunities in the Kingdom and EC-Jordan trade fairs.

The EC delegation voiced satisfaction with the handling of loans and financial assistance in Jordan, and both sides agreed to maintain contacts and promote bilateral economic and trade relations.

Zakat Fund to assist W. Bank, Gaza students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Zakat Fund (alms to the poor) has decided to extend financial assistance to needy students from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who are studying in the East Bank of Jordan.

A fund spokesman said that these students were cut off from their parents or relatives who were supporting them here as a result of the current uprising in the occupied territories.

The fund will hold contacts with the four universities on the East Bank in order to identify those eligible for the financial assistance, which is expected to be no less than JD 50 a month per student. A special committee will be set up to dispense the aid to the students, the spokesman added.

The Zakat Fund is affiliated with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

In the light of the uprising, a popular committee was formed last month by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to raise contributions for families of Palestinian martyrs who fell in the recent clashes with the Israeli occupation authorities. The committee has opened a special account for contributions with the Islamic Bank. Member of the committee Sheikh Mohammad Shafiq appealed to all citizens to contribute generously to the families of the martyrs as an expression of support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

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WHO to train health workers in vaccine control

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry Tuesday signed an agreement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) whereby the WHO will offer training courses to Ministry of Health cadres on vaccine quality control.

Under the agreement, Health Ministry personnel will receive training in the field of viral and

Rock group to film in rock city

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The ancient rock city will move to the tunes of a rock group Sisters of Mercy when they go on stage to film a video in Petra Friday.

Sisters of Mercy, according to the film production manager Robert Kerr, are a new British music group which is fast making its way to the top of the charts in Europe and the United States.

Eldritch and Patricia Morrissey's hit single "Dominion" was voted by American fans as a potential number-one hit, Kerr told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from Petra.

Israel under fierce attack at UNCHR

(Continued from page 1)

itself carries a moral responsibility to work towards an end to the deterioration of Arab human rights under occupation and to take measures to protect civilian population," he said.

Israel was "mistaken when it thought that the passage of time was able to force a fait accompli situation in the occupied territories," he said.

"It was also mistaken when it attributed the uprising of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza to outside elements," Qasrawi said. "The

"The duo decided to shoot their film in Petra. I don't why, but they are very keen on this trip," Kerr said. Neither Eldritch nor Patricia, who are expected to arrive in Amman Wednesday, has ever been in Jordan.

According to Kerr, the group is planning to shoot a promotional video film in the rose-red city some 200 kilometres south of Amman.

He said that the Royal Jordanian Airforce offered to send a helicopter to help in the filming of aerial scenes. The shooting of the video is slated for Friday and Saturday. Fifty camels and tens of bedouin will also participate in special scenes in the video.

These violations are not happening by mistake. These are crimes by official decree from the Israeli government."

PLO call

The representative of the PLO's permanent mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Nabil Ramli, urged the United Nations to take further steps to discipline Israel for its blatant human rights violations in the occupied territories.

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pening by mistake. These are

crimes by official decree from the Israeli government."

Heavy rains, snow wreak havoc throughout Kingdom; one killed

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — At least one person was killed and extensive damage was caused to cars, homes and other property in two days of storms which brought heavy rain and snow to most parts of the Kingdom.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) reported that, in Bayader Wadi Seer, a young boy drowned as he was walking to school.

CDD divers recovered the boy's body from a large pool of water which resulted from the rain, the report said.

The CDD also reported the flooding of homes and streets in low-lying areas of Amman, especially alongside the stream downtown and west of the city. Floods were also reported around the University of Jordan and Sweileh in the west, and Wadi Haddadah and Wahdat in the east.

CDD teams were also involved in reopening roads blocked by snow in a number of areas in the capital. Special teams also moved residents to safer ground after their homes were inundated by the rainwater.

The department warned that roads leading north were blocked with snow or affected by the rising water level.

According to the CDD, a truck skidded off the road and overturned near Qatraneh along the Desert highway leading south to Aqaba, and a fuel tanker overturned at Jweideh south of here, causing the contents to spill over the road, disrupting traffic.

The CDD also reported the injury of a woman involved in a road accident on the Queen Alia Airport highway when her car skidded on the slippery road.

A number of schools in Amman and the University of Jordan were closed due to the weather and road conditions.

The CDD reported damage to communication lines and electric power in Ajloun and other northern districts, where schools were

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In another development, Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhan said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that huge quantities of water have flown into the King Talal reservoir near Jerash as a result of the heavy rains. He said that at least five million cubic metres of water had added to the lake behind the dam, raising the present volume of stored water to 45 million cubic metres.

The minister, who visited the King Talal Dam, said that the dam's walls had been raised recently to allow for the storage of additional quantities of water needed for irrigation in the dry season.

Dakhan later visited Wadi Al Arab dam which, he said, holds 12.5 million cubic metres of water. He added that the Kafrain dam now stores 4.5 million cubic metres of water.

Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Mohammad Bani Hani said that the rains did not cause any damage to the

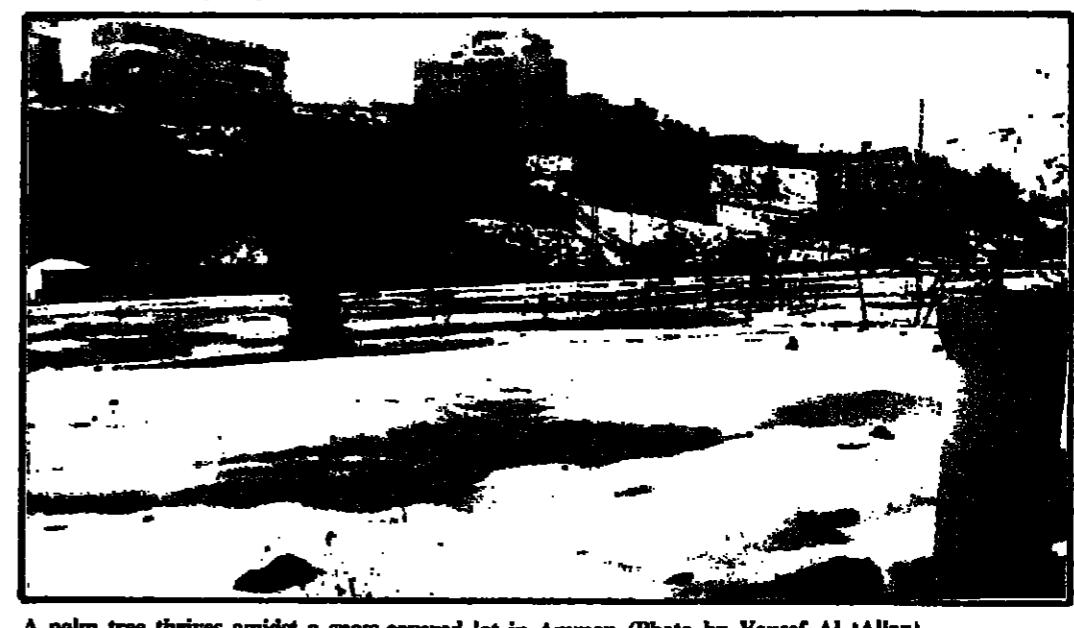
crops in the Jordan Valley, but JVA teams were ready to offer assistance if needed.

In the meantime, the Department of Meteorology expects more rain and cold wind until Wednesday evening, as a result of the same polar cold front which has swept the country over the past two days.

Department Director Ali Abada said that by Wednesday evening, the wind speed would be drastically reduced; but until then, more rain will fall and snow is expected in high regions of the Kingdom.

The two-day storm was preceded by a sand storm which brought hail and snow to regions 1,000 metres high.

According to the Meteorology Department bulletin, Wadi Seer and the University of Jordan area received largest amounts of rain. The bulletin added that snow fell mainly in the Maan, Jerash, Ajloun, Amman and Mafraq regions.



A palm tree thrives amidst a snow-covered lot in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 360



Drawing of: Feb. 2, 1988

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 57338	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 100
Wins JD 25,000	57339 5734

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Moral support and money

THE proposal by ten deputies in the Lower House of Parliament to levy a special tax to support the ongoing Palestinian uprising has rightly drawn mixed reactions. On one hand, there are those who champion this new tax as a way to help alleviate the economic hardships of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation. They argue that the least that Arab spectators can do is subsidise the revolt. On the other hand, there are those who express fears about this additional tax, lest the showering of money on the uprising dampen the will of the people to sustain their rebellion.

Obviously, the correct approach lies somewhere in the middle: for dousing the occupied territories with money would surely act as water on fire. It is the old fear of resorting to material temptations to weaken the resolve of subjugated peoples by diverting their attention from their national political causes. But to leave the Palestinian people to starve to death could affect the same undesirable results. Material support to the Palestinian people to bolster their steadfastness is surely a worthy cause. In this context, one could think of two primary objectives in collecting the tax: to strengthen the economic infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip — the backbone of any viable steadfastness; secondly, to serve as an emergency fund to deal with emergency situations, such as the current situation in the occupied territories.

In short, Jordanians from all walks of life should pitch in to help their brothers and sisters in the West Bank and Gaza. After two months of strikes and a major interruption of economic life in the Arab territories, it would be in order to extend material aid to the Palestinian people struggling for liberation from Israeli occupation and suppression. Jordanians should act as the vanguard of Arab support for the noble Palestinian uprising. Yet this special responsibility which Jordan and all Jordanians should bear requires general Arab support, as well. The Arab World surely notes how Jews worldwide conduct active campaigns to fund the Israeli economy or subsidise its military and economic power. As long as there is something called Arab nationalism, and we think there is, the whole Arab World must come to the rescue of the Palestinians under occupation, by whatever means, including money.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Noble stands

KING Hussein conveyed to Pope John Paul appreciation and warm feelings from millions of Arabs for the Vatican's noble stands with regard to the cause of peace and justice in the Middle East. These feelings reflect the Arab people's yearning for peace, stability and end of suffering caused by Israel's occupation of Arab territory and inhuman treatment of Arab people. The King's visit to the Vatican and his meeting with the Pope came as the Israeli forces continue to escalate their inhuman practices and barbaric actions inside the occupied Arab lands, killing and wounding more Arab citizens. This visit came as the international community follows up with bitterness and horror the ongoing brutal activities and crimes committed by the Israeli army against the defenceless Palestinians. The Pope too feels the bitterness of the situation and the true dimension of this tragedy that had befallen the Palestinian people. The Pope realises that the Israeli iron fist policy has exceeded all limits and Israel's barbaric practices went beyond all dimensions, violating human dignity and making a mockery of all that the Vatican has sought to achieve of peace, tranquility and stability in the holy land. For this reason, we believe that the King's visit to the Pope is of paramount importance at this stage and at a time when all holy places in occupied Palestine face violation and sacrifice, and when the people of the holy land face all forms of persecution, starvation and oppression. The Arab masses and all peace-loving nations look to the Vatican and the Pope with hope for an end to this tragedy.

Al Dustour: Appreciation for Pope's role

KING Hussein visited the Vatican Monday and met with the Pope in implementation of the Arab summit resolutions taken in Amman last November. The King who aims at intensifying the dialogue with the Vatican has conveyed the Arab World's deep appreciation for the Pope's appointment of an Arab as patriarch of Jerusalem and for the Vatican's stands with regard to the problem of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem. The meeting at the Vatican coincided with further escalation by the Israeli authorities of their repressive actions against the Palestinian people and also with favourable reactions from world nations which support peace moves. There is no doubt that the Pope has tremendous moral influence on many nations; and his declared stands have a strong bearing on their attitudes towards the Middle East crisis. For this reason, the Arab summit meeting entrusted the King to carry on the dialogue with the Vatican and seek all support and backing for a drive to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. There is no doubt also that the Pope's appointment of a Palestinian Arab, Michel Sabbah as patriarch of Jerusalem drew deep satisfaction and support from all Arabs, specially as this appointment came amidst an Arab uprising against Israeli rule and in the face of Israel's oppression. The King's meeting with the Pope ahead of his coming European tour emphasises the importance of the Vatican's role in the search for peace in our region. The Vatican meeting also coincided with a flurry of activity at the U.N. Security Council aimed at convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Sawt Al Shaab: King rallies Vatican support

KING Hussein's meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican comes in the course of the monarch's sincere and relentless efforts abroad to rally support for the Arab cause and bring about an end to Israel's oppression in the occupied Arab territory. The Arab summit in Amman has paved the way for the visit as the Arab leaders entrusted the King with the task of intensifying contacts with the Vatican and European countries to serve Arab causes. The visit could not have come at a more pressing time when the Arab territories under Israeli rule are facing oppression and when the Arab people are rising in the face of this oppression. The Pope who enjoys worldwide spiritual influence can play a major role in bringing about justice and removing persecution and ending the sufferings of the Palestinian people. The Arab masses look with hope to the King's endeavours around the world, and also take encouragement from the Vatican's noble stands and its support for a peaceful solution for the Palestine problem and the issue of Jerusalem which the Pope regards as a holy city of peace for all people.

Palestinian uprising causes stress in Israeli soldiers

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Confronting a Palestinian revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has scarred the psyche of many young Israeli soldiers, raising worries about their future behaviour, psychologists and military experts say.

"You must understand one thing," a 23-year-old soldier, who recently served in the West Bank, told Reuters. "If you don't have as a conqueror, you can't survive there. You have to cut out thinking, be strong and do nasty things."

He asked not to be named because Israeli regulations bar soldiers from talking to journalists without permission. In this report, he is called "Avi."

To help cope with the mental stress of facing a hostile population, the Israeli army has sent psychiatrists to work with units in the occupied territories, military sources said.

Nearly 500 mental health workers placed a protest petition in Israeli newspapers last Friday warning that the government was placing young conscripts in "morally untenable situations."

Concern has heightened since Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin instructed the army this month to use "might, power and beating" rather than guns to crush the Palestinian uprising. Rabin vowed at the weekend to continue the policy until "order was restored."

Avi said he and his comrades rarely discussed serving in the territories.

Difficult place

"I wish I was strong enough to do this work — mentally, not physically," he said. "I think, hope and believe most soldiers there are still human beings. It's very hard to judge them. They are in a bad situation where they were sent to a very difficult place with a difficult job."

None of the soldiers encountered on patrol at Ramallah and at nearby Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank was happy to be on the front line, but opinions on Rabin's policy

varied. International protest focused on the beaten Palestinians. Military and U.N. sources said some 420 Palestinians had been treated at hospitals for beatings in the seven weeks of the uprising. The Israelis say 39 were shot dead by the army, but independent sources put the figure at 76.

The army says initial excessive brutality has been curbed. Many Israelis have expressed concern at the long-term effects of the new orders in which soldiers have been told to use their clubs first and keep ammunition for more dangerous situations.

Rabin acknowledged that many young soldiers would rather be serving on the more dangerous front lines in South Lebanon than facing a hostile civilian population in West Bank and Gaza refugee camps.

"The minute the (beatings) order was given, the genie was out of the bottle," Zeev Schiff of Haaretz, the doyen of Israeli military correspondents, told Reuters.

"The beatings are an outcome of the earlier stage when they (the army) opened fire and killed people. Then they got strong orders and officers were dismissed because people were killed."

"The second stage was that they (the commanders) were stuck with no answer to harassment. The third stage was the beatings. It's not a simple question at all. Inevitably there were excesses."

Ephraim Ya'ar, a professor of social anthropology at Tel Aviv who is researching the conflict, says the problem is "what these soldiers will become."

"Despite their training, this is an entirely new situation for which they were quite simply not prepared," he said.

"Now we do it more. At first we couldn't. The population makes the women get out in front and throw stones," he said.

"The women are more brave than the men. We don't beat the women as we would a man. We only use a club, not our hands..."

Avi said it was easy to become accustomed to the beatings after a time "because everyone is doing it, all your friends are doing it."

"You get new orders and after a day or two you get good at it and feel good about it. Soon you do things you never thought you could... I didn't let the few soldiers I commanded beat people unnecessarily."

"But our (mainly conscript) army is like all the Israeli people. You get some who want peace and don't like trouble at all and you get others who enjoy the fighting and hatred."

No compassion to Lebanon

Schiff, co-author of a book about Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and soldiers who served there, said the problems in the territories and across Israel's northern border could not yet be compared.

"No soldier has been killed in the territories since the rebellion started," Schiff said. Some 650 soldiers died in Lebanon before Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces in 1985.

"It's like comparing a table and a chair," said a lieutenant colonel from an armoured brigade at Bureij refugee camp in Gaza. "If we did our real job we could stop all this trouble in a day."

"I feel frustrated and very frightened as an Israeli soldier walking around and getting stones thrown at me. I feel powerless," said Tuvia, a conscript, who immigrated from Britain two years ago.

"The worst thing was when we first had to beat up women," said Second Lieutenant Ofer, 21, his platoon commander.

"Now we do it more. At first we couldn't. The population makes the women get out in front and throw stones," he said.

"The women are more brave than the men. We don't beat the women as we would a man. We only use a club, not our hands..."

The New York Times: Most corrupt administration in U.S. history

Iraqi pipeline probe may spell big trouble for Meese

By Valerie Strauss
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Edwin Meese, who has weathered sharp criticism over his job performance and federal probes into his financial affairs, faces perhaps his most serious challenge over his role in a \$1-billion Iraqi pipeline project.

Meese, who followed his friend Ronald Reagan from California to the White House in 1981, has been investigated by different independent prosecutors in the last few years for his tangled financial activities, including his involvement in the scandal-plagued Wedtech Corporation.

The probe has created scandal but failed to turn up evidence of wrongdoing on which to base criminal charges. Five weeks ago, special prosecutor James McKay said there was insufficient evidence to charge Meese with anything — but he also said the probe was continuing.

Now a new scandal has emerged over Meese's involvement in a \$1-billion Iraqi pipeline project and it could well be the most serious challenge the attorney general has faced. There have been suggestions that he resign rather than subject President Reagan to further embarrassment.

The scandal began when it was reported that McKay, who has been investigating Meese's financial affairs for months, was focusing on a 1985 memo to Meese from E. Robert Wallach, a long-time friend and associate who was trying to win U.S. government backing and funds for the pipeline.

The Israeli connection

The Los Angeles Times, which revealed the existence of the memo on Jan. 29, said it discussed a plan to bribe a senior Israeli official to help prevent Israeli attacks on the pipeline once it was built. The project fell through and the pipeline was never built.

U.S. law prohibits bribes to foreign officials. The law specifically says the attorney general may take legal action to stop a violation when it appears the law may be broken.

Israeli officials have strongly rejected reports that bribes were paid, and Meese's lawyer, Nathan Lewin, denied Meese did anything wrong.

The White House has said

probed charges Meese had improperly helped friends with whom he had financial dealings to get government jobs. The investigation, which nearly blocked his confirmation as attorney general, ended with no charges being filed against Meese.

Meese has testified before the grand jury investigating the Iran-contra scandal, which may indict former White House aides John Poindexter and Oliver North in the Iran scandal.

Though Meese is not a target, he has come under scathing criticism for his 1986 investigation into the Iran scandal after North admitted he shredded key documents in his office as Justice Department officials worked just a few feet away.

McKay is also investigating whether Meese personally profited financially from his position, in one case whether he gained financially in return for helping Wedtech, a bankrupt New York defence contractor, win army contracts.

Other financial matters include questionable stock transactions by a financial consultant in charge of Meese's blind trust, and Meese's ownership of stock in telephone companies at the same time the Justice Department was urging a judge to ease restrictions on the companies.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Howard Baker, White House chief of staff, said on television Jan. 31 that McKay had come to the White House to reveal the pipeline probe.

McKay's visit was significant because it was unprecedented. No other independent counsel has been known to brief U.S. officials on their probes.

Baker tried to minimise the level of official corruption uncovered in the last seven years.

While McKay is with his probe, it is believed the fact he met with Baker indicated the issue was very serious, more so than previous scandals surrounding Meese.

Also probed in 1984

In 1984, a special prosecutor

should be talking to the PLO if they wanted a settlement.

The veto followed impassioned speeches by more than a score of nations and last-minute, personal pleas from Palestinian leaders, including Hama Simona, editor of the newspaper Al Fajr in Jerusalem.

"It may be that Ambassador Murphy will take a quick swing around and attempt to work on these ideas," said Shultz.

Resolution vetoed

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Herbert Okun, explaining Monday's veto at the Security Council, said:

"It is an untimely effort to involve the Security Council on issues which are at this time best dealt with through diplomatic channels."

It was the second time in two weeks that Washington had blocked the adoption of proposals criticising Israeli policies. The 14 other council members voted in favour of Monday's draft.

The defeated resolution picked up Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's recommendation that Israel apply by law in the West Bank and Gaza Strip the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Civilians in Wartime and "correct its policies" there.

Despite the veto, Perez de Cuellar pledged to continue his peace efforts. "I don't feel that because this resolution was not allowed that I have to be arm-crossed," he told reporters.

In his Jan. 22 report, he again called for the convening of a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East. Israel rejected the idea.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy Zehdi Terzi rejoined that the Americans

should be talking to the PLO if they wanted a settlement.

The veto followed impassioned speeches by more than a score of nations and last-minute, personal pleas from Palestinian leaders, including Hama Simona, editor of the newspaper Al Fajr in Jerusalem.

"It may be that Ambassador Murphy will take a quick swing around and attempt to work on these ideas," said Shultz.

Shultz faces 'challenge'

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, faced a challenge from hardliners in his own Likud party and militant Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Levy met leaders of the ultra-nationalist settlers and accused the Americans of distorting the Camp David peace accords.

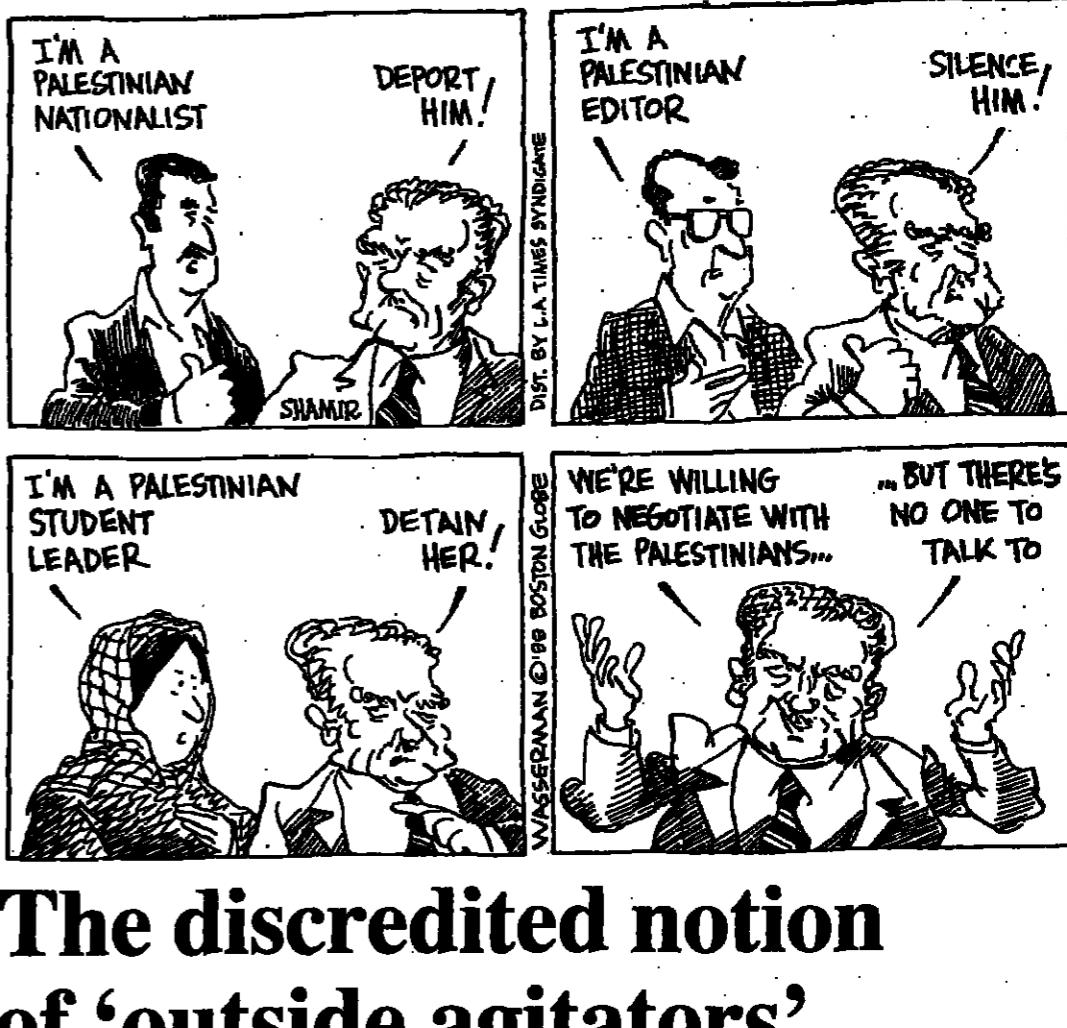
Shamir, who demonstrated his support for the peace accords, visited a controversial Jewish outpost in the heart of the Gaza Strip Monday, called for a massive new Israeli settlement drive prior to any move on Palestinian autonomy.

Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner insisted the prime minister had agreed only to open negotiations on "full autonomy based on the Camp David accords."

He said Shamir would demand Israeli "sovereignty" over the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir had not endorsed specific U.S. proposals and was waiting to see whether the Arabs were ready to enter negotiations on the basis proposed by Washington, Pazner said.

Political sources said that, given expected Arab opposition to the U.S. ideas, the Israeli leader was unlikely to be put to the test.



The discredited notion of 'outside agitators'

By Mohammad Hallaj

ISRAEL has been caught again with its make-up running. The vigorous and sustained popular uprising in the occupied territories, the vicious Israeli response, and universal condemnation have left the Zionist myth structure in a shambles — at least for the time being. Casualties of the uprising, in addition to the over 40 Palestinians dead so far, include some of Israel's most cherished myths. These include the absurd notion of "being occupied," the wishful thinking about the demise of the Palestinian question, and the illusion of quiescent Palestinian subjects.

Confronted with the untenable task of trying to re-wrap reality in ill fitting and worn out mythology, Israel fell back on the transparent and discredited concept of "outside agitators" to explain the obvious: That people have always and everywhere rejected and resisted foreign military occupation. Israel's military occupation is even

Singapore takes on the 007 journalists

There is the prospect of worsening relations between the foreign press and the Singapore government, reports Roger Matthews, as the "James Bond School of Journalism" comes under fire.

SINGAPORE — The probability of a worsening conflict between the Singapore government and part of the Western media was clearly signposted more than 18 months ago.

In a colourfully controversial speech to resident foreign correspondents, Mr. S. Rajaratnam, long ago a member of the profession but now senior minister in the office of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, announced his discovery of the James Bond school of journalism.

Its disciples were apparently on the prowl in Asia and could be identified, said the minister, by their belief in the 007 journalistic licence to destroy the reputation of leaders and governments in the region.

Two British examples of this breed cited by the minister were Mr. Donald Trelford, editor of *The Observer* in London, and Mr. John Pilger, formerly of Britain's *Daily Mirror*.

He said that it was in anticipation of a possible coming conflict with the IBJs (James Bond journalists) that the government had moved to safeguard Singapore by amending the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act in August 1986. Under the terms of the amended act, the government has the power to reduce drastically the circulation of a publication which it judges to have meddled in the domestic politics of Singapore.

Those so far found guilty under the act have been some of the

best-known and generally well-regarded publications in the region: *Time* magazine, *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Asiaweek* magazine, and most recently, the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

The resident correspondent of *The Economist* newspaper was dealt with outside the terms of the act. He was banned last year from speaking to officials for allegedly suggesting a split in the cabinet.

Time, having had its circulation chopped from 18,000 to 2,000 for refusing to print in full a letter of rebuttal from the government, has had the sanction lifted; *The Asian Wall Street Journal* is pursuing the issue through the courts; and the *Far Eastern Economic Review* has announced that, rather than see its circulation cut from 9,000 to 500, it will not circulate any copies at all in

Singapore. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew is also suing the *Review* for libel and already has a case pending against the *Sunday Star* in neighbouring Malaysia.

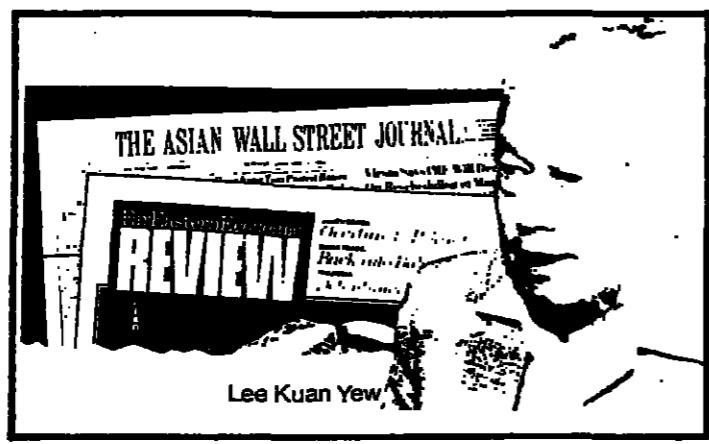
The government has sought to maintain throughout that it is not denying the freedom of Singaporeans to read what they wish, but rather that it is seeking to prevent foreign publications from profiting financially by writing and circulating inaccurate stories about Singapore.

Accordingly, it makes those publications available at public libraries where readers may also photocopy articles in which they are interested. So anxious is the government to maintain this principle that it is planning to counter the decision of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* not to make any copies available in Singapore by passing legislation to allow for the photocopying and distribution without financial gain — of the magazine.

The U.S. government also greeted the Singapore government's action, but what no Western government or publisher can deny is the right of a sovereign government to do whatever it wishes in a democracy so long as it enjoys the support of the electorate.

Although the issue of foreign publications in Singapore is unlikely to figure prominently on the list of topics to be considered in the run-up to the general election expected later this year, the government's attitude towards them may contribute to the perception the voters have of their representatives.

— Financial Times feature.



The public library's park in central Nablus (File photo)

50 Israeli women visit Nablus

By Rayna Moss

FIFTY Israeli women in the centre of Nablus draw as much attention as would a group of nudists. In the tension ridden atmosphere of the occupied territories, we are aware of the stares and questions we cause, but there seems no way to explain ourselves at this stage.

We are soon approached by four young men. "Do any of you speak Arabic?" I say I do. "Do you have any business with the municipality here? Are you waiting for someone?" The tones are severe. "We are a delegation of democratic Israeli women here to express solidarity with the residents of the occupied territories."

The migration of the homeless to Paris in the winter is a "very important phenomenon," said Philippe Lafarge, director of the city social aid office. The winter influx includes seasonal workers, people from the north of France and some foreigners, he said.

During northern Europe's severe winter two years ago, homeless people froze to death in Paris, most of them tramps. Some refuse to go to shelters run by charities, saying they do better on their own.

The intentionally homeless are one thing, the aggressively homeless another. They are the squatters, a subclass of the youth protests that swept Western Europe in the late 1960s. Squatters showed most dramatically in Holland, and they still invade vacant properties, housing themselves while drawing attention to their own.

"In some cases, people squat because they need space for their political activities," said an Amsterdam squatter who gave only his first name, Leo. "People find it important to live as a group. Then you pretty much have to homes, only to house them."

The south London borough of Lambeth issued an appeal in November to owners of vacant houses to lease their properties at attractive rents, with the borough taking over maintenance. The borough got a surprisingly vigorous response, and was able to house immediately some 20 families of former Vietnamese boat people who were evicted from a bed-and-breakfast hotel.

Charities report a problem of burnout among British social workers, who know they have no real solution — a home — to offer. "This leads to a situation where powerless workers are talking to the powerless homeless, with all the distress this

one is sure if the curfew on the camp is still on.

Soon we are met by members of the local women's union, who will take us to Far'a refugee camp, and Tubas, a nearby village. As we wait for taxis, the crowd around us grows to over a hundred. When we arrive in Far'a, this scene repeats itself.

Here, an older woman approaches us, asking who we are. A few minutes later we are surrounded by what seems to be half the camp's population. Children of 14 and 15 who had been detained for 18 days in the infamous Far'a prison are brought forward to speak about their experiences.

"Were you beaten? What do you think, an older boy answers, they weren't taken on a field trip. The conversation is mainly in Hebrew — almost all working men work inside the '48 borders. The tones are angry. Far'a camp has two martyrs, 12 wounded and 28 detained awaiting trial.

"Why don't we hear your voice if you want peace so badly?" "What have you been doing all this time while our uprising was going on?" It is useless to speak about the pickets and demonstrations which took place all over Israel. The people are convinced we could have done much more. "Why didn't you come when we were demonstrating?" "You're always too late". "At least they come now", another says, "let them write about us in their papers. You should know that your army is like a Nazi army — we're treated like you were in Europe."

A separate group of women forms in a side alley, but doesn't mix with the main group. Some Israeli women go to them and soon women pour from the surrounding houses. Others lean out of balconies. Mothers of detainees, schoolgirls, women who treated the wounded and hid children from the army, all are eager to talk.

We walk through the camp using alleys and paths pointed out by the children. They know that if the army sees us and the dozens

of local people who have joined us, we will be declared an illegal demonstration and trouble will come. As it is, people lean out of windows to ask if there's a demonstration today and if we've come to participate. "No demonstration today," our hosts answer. "Too bad, they should see what happens!" At this stage we learn that three of our taxis have been stopped at the roadblock and turned back to Nablus, after the commanding officer declared the place a "closed military area". Only local residents are allowed in. A young man who happened to be in one of the taxis is let in, but is then caught by the soldier patrol who have been alerted to look out for him. He is accused of being our organiser and beaten before being released.

In Tubas, two families join their mourning. We drink bitter coffee and join the women. A relative describes one of the martyrs' deaths, his courage and hon-

our. Another woman recites a poem by Mahmoud Darwish and the bereaved mothers burst into tears. Later we visit some of the wounded. A grandmother describes the way she stood in her doorway telling the soldiers they could arrest her but not her children. A young girl who was wounded by a live bullet is afraid to sleep in the hospital for fear of being arrested there. Another tells us about her aunt, who recently underwent surgery but refused to stay in bed to help care for the wounded. Food was prepared collectively and handed out in the streets to allow as many people as possible to join our popular uprising.

Older women prepared wet blankets to throw over tear gas grenades. Their pride in their mobilisation is great, yet they are bitter and angry. "We are fighting for our homeland, our dignity and for peace. Why do they kill us?" — Middle East International, London.

The worst punishment

The following article by Gadi Yatziv of the Israeli newspaper *Al Hanashim* is reprinted from the London-based *Middle East International*.

"WHAT IS IT that you can't understand about it? Expulsion is the most severe punishment at our disposal, which is why we must be allowed to impose it," a friend serving as a professional officer in the IDF asked me during a discussion we had about Israel's strong arm policy in the territories. A senior army officer, he added for my enlightenment that "no other measure is more effective with the population of the territories."

"What makes expulsion such an effective punishment?" I asked, trying to draw him out. "After all, arrest and detention are, on first sight, far worse punishments. The man you have expelled can live a normal life among his nearest and dearest; he can work, have fun and see the world. A prisoner, on the other hand, is cut off from the world," he replied in a puzzled way. Yet the man is a senior officer, an academic and a graduate of a 3-year course in Middle East Studies. "Don't lose faith now, just calmly pay attention to what he says and restrain yourself," I had to tell myself as I listened to him.

"So, all you conclude from the Arab trait of greatly loving one's homeland is that expulsion is an effective punishment," I questioned him. "I can't see what you are getting at," he replied in a puzzled way.

Yet the man is a senior officer, an academic and a graduate of a 3-year course in Middle East Studies. "Don't lose faith now, just calmly pay attention to what he says and restrain yourself," I had to tell myself as I listened to him.



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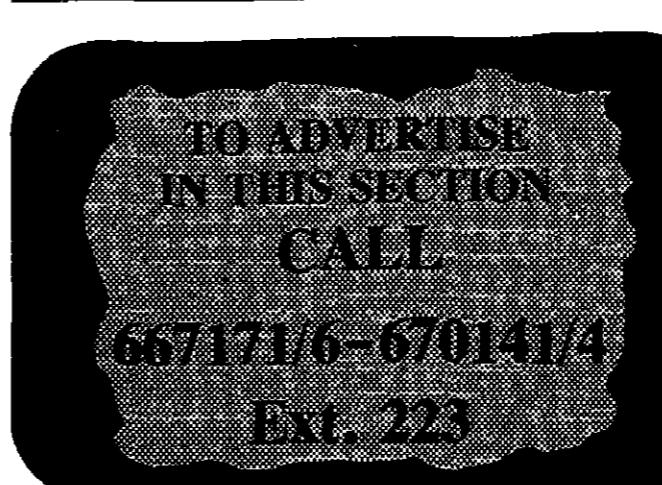
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AMMAN JORDAN

A street scene in Paris. The placard says: "We live on the street, our baby is 20 months old. We are hungry. Thank you for your kindness."

Moves launched for participation in Olympic professional basketball

By Neasa Starcovic
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT — American professional basketball stars could be playing Olympic basketball in 1992 if the International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA) congress approves its governing board's recommendation.

FIBA Secretary-General Bora Stankovic said Monday the governing board has proposed a change in eligibility rules that would open the Olympics and world championships to men and women professionals.

The board will convene an extraordinary FIBA congress in April 1989 to put the proposal to vote.

"Under the proposal, national basketball association stars would be able to play at the Olympics and world championships," Stankovic told the Associated Press.

The move has to be formally approved by FIBA's extraordinary congress in April 1989 in Munich, West Germany, but he said there were "excellent chances" that it will be accepted.

If the congress votes in favour of the proposal, NBA and other professionals would be eligible for the 1990 world championships in Argentina and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

FIBA has 173 member federations and a simple majority of

those present at the congress is required to pass the move, Stankovic said in a telephone interview with the AP from FIBA headquarters in Munich.

The governing board met in Munich Sunday and approved the proposal by a vote of 18-4, Stankovic said. The board has 31 members but only 22 attended.

Opposition

U.S., Soviet, Cuban and Bulgarian officials opposed the proposal to open the Olympics to professionals. But the board consists of elected officials who are not necessarily speaking for their federations, Stankovic said.

"The federations can officially vote only at the congress," he said.

"We think there are excellent chances that the congress will accept the board's recommendation," said Stankovic, a Yugoslav whose term as secretary-general was extended by the board until 1996.

"The move to allow professionals to compete at the Olympics

and world championships is primarily directed at opening these events to NBA stars," Stankovic said.

He said FIBA had already talked with International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials about the proposal and "they are all for it."

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch has led a drive to allow more professionals to compete at the Olympics, including tennis and hockey stars.

The IOC usually follows eligibility rules put forward by the federations governing individual sports.

Stankovic said the U.S. member of the board, Bill Wall, opposed the move because the U.S. federation wasn't sure the NBA would go along and make provisions in its calendar that would free the league's stars for the Olympics.

Also, the Americans are concerned that the inclusion of NBA stars would make the U.S. team virtually unbeatable, making Olympic tournaments a no-contest, he said.

"I thought that if any team around could repeat it was the Giants because they were solid at every position," he said of last year's champions, who fell victim to a terrible strike team, injuries and post-Super Bowl malaise, finishing last in the division with a 6-9 record.

That gives the Giants an easy last-place schedule next season. They get to play Detroit twice and Kansas City, while the Redskins are facing the likes of Chicago and Cleveland.

"I think the Giants are mad about what happened this year and will come roaring back," Gibbs said. "I think Philadelphia is coming on, and so are the Cardinals."

The NFC has won the last four Super Bowls by a composite score of 165-56 with 14 of those 56 points coming on fourth-quarter touchdowns as the NFC team was cruising with a big lead. In fact, the fewest points by any NFC Super Bowl team over that period was the 38 scored by San Francisco in its 38-16 victory over Miami in 1985.

Gibbs refused to acknowledge conference domination.

"Each of those games are totally separate," he said. "I don't see it as AFC-NFC. Each of those teams got hot for a day. What takes over and contributes to a

Redskins give NFC four Super Bowl victories in a row, set eyes on 1988

SAN DIEGO, California (AP) — Super Bowl winners don't repeat. So, after the Washington Redskins lost to New York in the National Football Conference (NFC) title game a year ago, Charles Mann was rooting for the Giants in the Super Bowl. That way, the Redskins would have a chance this year.

Mann's double wish came true Sunday when the Redskins went on a record-breaking binge that included 35 second-quarter points to rout the Denver Broncos 42-10, becoming the fourth straight NFC team to capture a lopsided National Football League (NFL) championship.

That led Redskins coach Joe Gibbs to face the inevitable questions Monday about the difficulty of repeating as NFL champion. No team this decade has won two straight Super Bowls.

Gibbs' response: "I just want to get through our division first."

The last two Super Bowl winners, the Giants and Redskins, came from the NFC East, and Gibbs said he believes it's the toughest division in football.

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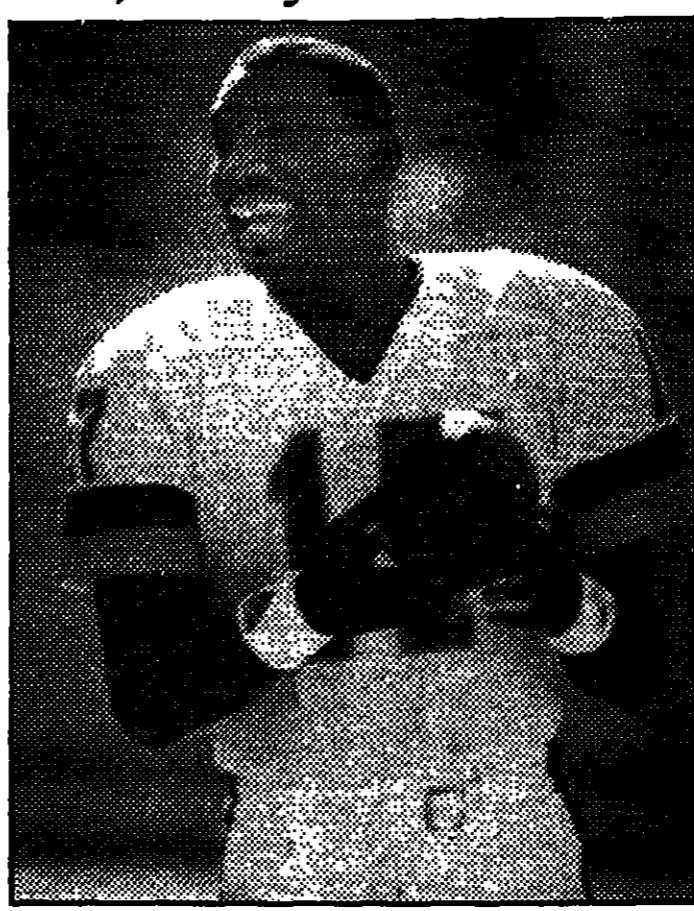
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Doug Williams

lopsided game is difficult to understand."

Offensive tackle Mark May said after Sunday's game the Redskins were able to outmuscle the Broncos — as the Giants did — because they are used to physical games within the division.

Gibbs said he believed there was a lot to be said for intrateam competition, the same kind he will have at running back with George Rogers, Kelvin Bryant and Timmy Smith, a surprise starter in Rogers' place, set another record with 204 yards rushing, yet got just a half a vote for MVP to Williams' 10%.

Smith's rushing and Williams' passing contributed to yet another record — 602 total yards offense, which also included 193 yards receiving by Ricky Sanders, another record by another non-MVP.

"I don't think we're a dominant team," Gibbs said. "It's so fleeting in the NFL today. In Washington, everyone wants you to win every game or they get on you."

"For a coach it would be great if you're retiring. Or maybe just let the team quit and not play the next year after it wins a Super Bowl."

Internal contention

There also is expected to be some contention for the quarterback spot between 26-year-old Jay Schroeder, the incumbent entering this season, and 32-year-old Doug Williams, who threw for a record 340 yards and four touchdowns to be named the

game's most valuable player. The 340 yards, 306 of them in the first half, was one of 10 Super Bowl records set by the Redskins. The four TD's tied a super bowl mark.

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Indonesia announces 'million-dollar marathon'

JAKARTA (AP) — A 10,000-metre running race on the tourist island of Bali April 3 will pay a total of \$1 million in special prizes if both the men's and women's world records fall, the chairman of the Indonesian Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said Tuesday.

Bob Hasan said entries would include Marc Newson of the United States and Elizabeth Lynch McColligan of Britain, Mary Decker Staney of the United States and Zola Budd of Britain.

The winner of the men's race will receive \$30,000, and the winner of the women's race \$25,000, he said, adding that the "million-dollar marathon" also would offer \$500,000 each for a men's or women's world record.

The prizes for world records are being offered personally by Hasan, who owns several big companies, including a timber and plywood company.

The current men's record is 27

minutes, 13.81 seconds, set by Fernando Manade of Portugal in 1984 and the women's mark is 30:13.74, set by Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway in 1986.

Hasan said he was confident that one or both records would fall in the second annual Bali 10,000-metre run.

Newson and McColligan won the inaugural Bali 10,000 in February last year, when McColligan beat Kristiansen. Newson's time then was 28:37, and McColligan's 31:57.

Hasan said both would be indicated they would be in top form to run for the "big money."

Newson has run the 10,000 in 27 minutes, 22 seconds, and McColligan has run 31:07.

Hasan said leading distance runners from Kenya, Japan, Mexico, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, West Germany, Canada, Britain and the United States have sent in official entry forms.

Row over rules overshadows boxing world title fight

LONDON (AP) — Frank Tate, the unbeaten American middleweight who begins his defence of the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title against Britain's Tony Sibson next weekend, met his opponent for the first time Monday and also gained first hand experience of the bitter regulations wrangle that surrounds the contest.

Tate, the 1984 Olympic light middleweight champion, meets the vastly experienced Briton at the Bingley Hall, Stafford, in central England Sunday.

For the 24-year-old American, it is the first defence of the title he won by outpointing Michael Olajide last October. For 29-year-old Sibson, who has lost world title challenges against "Marvellous" Marvin Hagler and Britain's Dennis Andrews, it is regarded as his last chance to win a world crown.

At a news conference to promote the contest, however, the two fighters were annoyed that most of the talk was about a war of words raging between IBF and the British Boxing Board of Control.

Sibson said he was tired of being pestered in the gym about the dispute, while Tate's trainer, Jesse Reid, threatened to walk out of the conference because no one was asking his fighter any questions.

As with virtually all IBF title fights, the contest is over 15 rounds. But in line with the two

will be IBF officials present," Warren, who is threatening to sue the board for alleged restraint of trade, said.

The IBF's European spokesman, John Robinson, announced that Frank Cappuccino from Philadelphia would referee the world title fight and the judges would be Torben Hansen of Denmark, Joe Pasquale of New Jersey and Dr. Clark Sammarino, from Providence, Rhode Island.

Sibson, who has a 55-6-1 record dating back to April 1976, said the wrangle had affected his preparation in a big way.

"I've heard a lot of rumours about what might happen to the fight or to me and I've been pestered in the gym about it. That's not the sort of preparation I need for a world title fight," he said.

Positive tests show steady rise in use of dope by sportsmen

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — The number of positive dope tests on sportsmen analysed by one of the world's leading laboratories rose sharply last year for the fourth consecutive year, testers said Tuesday.

Professor Manfred Donike, one of the world's top experts on doping in sport and head of the Cologne laboratory, said 1987 produced a record 111 positive results — 4.41 per cent of those tests done at domestic and international events.

The figure represented an increase of more than 400 per cent since 1983 when only 0.90 per cent of 1,535 tests analysed were positive.

In 1986, 3.65 per cent of the 2,165 tests analysed — most of them from events held in West Germany — proved positive.

But Donike said the increase did not necessarily mean the battle against the use of drugs in sport was being lost.

"Doping controls have sparked off a learning process among sports federations but we are still a long way from the solution of the problem," he told a news conference.

Donike said last year's figures were heavily influenced by a dramatic rise in positive tests among body builders. He said 71

of 236 tests on body builders, almost a third, showed evidence of drugs, mostly anabolic steroids.

But he said tests on body builders had begun only recently and he was sure the results would have a deterrent effect, leading to a big improvement this year.

Donike said the biggest problem in sport was the increasing use of anabolic steroids which accounted for three-quarters of the drugs found.

"There is a changing pattern with dope in sport," he said. "Twenty years ago just about all cyclists used amphetamines. Now their use has virtually vanished. Instead we have the growing use of steroids in many sports."

Donike said he was alarmed to find, for the first time, five cases involving probenecide, a drug used to mask anabolic steroids in the body.

He said there was evidence that probenecide had been widely used in the United States over the past year or two and that sportsmen at the Pan-American Games and World Athletics Championships in Rome last year had employed it to avoid detection of steroids.

The drug was banned by the International Olympic Committee only last September.

Stoltenberg, Zvereva head list of world junior tennis aces

LONDON (AP) — Australia's Jason Stoltenberg and Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union were the world's leading junior tennis players of 1987, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced Tuesday.

Stoltenberg, 17, who last month reached the fourth round of the Australian Open, headed the boys' end-of-year rankings, while 16-year-old Zvereva, who won the junior titles at the French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open championships, topped the girls' list, which shows no American players in the top 20.

The rankings are based on 106 ITF-sanctioned junior events held in the year.

Stoltenberg began 1987 by winning the Australian Open junior singles title, was runner up in the equivalent competitions at both the French and Wimbledon

championships and reached the semifinal of the U.S. Open junior tournament.

Behind him in the boys' ranking comes Alejandro Aramburu of Peru with Andrei Chersakov of the Soviet Union third. The leading American is fourth placed Jim Courier with countryman David Wheaton ranked three places behind.

By contrast, the leading American in the girls' list is Ann Grossman at No. 22. The top ten includes three Soviets, Zvereva, Elena Brioukhovets (No. 4) and Natalia Medvedeva (No. 8).

Zvereva, who reached the last 16 of the main competition at Wimbledon, ended the year ranked No. 20 on the senior list.

Holding second place behind Zvereva in the junior ranking is Gabriela Mosa of Argentina.

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Jordanian-Iraqi company to buy 150 Renault trucks

By a Jordan Times Staff writer

AMMAN — The French company Renault Vehicles Industriels (RVI) has won a JD 3,927 million contract from the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (JILTC) to provide 150 trucks to help boost JILTC's transportation capabilities and promote trade between Jordan and Iraq.

Under an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday, the French company will supply the trucks by June this year and will also provide training for Jordanian and Iraqi personnel in France and in Jordan. Moreover, Renault will send a team of French technicians to offer on-site training.

The terms of the agreement call for the French company to guarantee the maintenance of the trucks for one year and to dispatch a mobile maintenance workshop for this purpose to Jordan and to build a maintenance garage and hanger at the port city of Aqaba.

The agreement was signed by JILTC Director-General Jamil Ibrahim and by Jean Robert Fayet, sales manager at RVI Middle East Department.

Following the signing ceremony, Ibrahim said that upon the arrival of the first consignment, the JILTC will have a total of 900 trucks to help transport goods from Aqaba to Iraq.

Large quantities of goods have been arriving in Aqaba since the beginning of last year warranting more trucks to be employed to transport the goods to their destination, Ibrahim said. He added that the JILTC also needs to upgrade its operational capacity to meet future developments and expansion.

The new trucks will create new jobs for more people and will help ease the congestion of goods accumulated at the port of Aqaba, Ibrahim noted.

He said that another agreement will soon be signed with a Yugoslav company for supplying 150 trailers to be added to the trucks to help transport goods to Iraq.

Committee prepares study on Jordan's milk output

AMMAN (J.T.) — The average milk yield of licensed and unlicensed farms in Jordan is approximately 64 tonnes per day, of which 33 tonnes are supplied by individual cow owners in rural areas, according to a report published Tuesday in the Arabic newspaper Al Dustour.

The report said that a special committee for assessing milk yields and marketing outlays has met twice during the current month to study the volume of milk yields for the current year. The study will also determine the number of cows to be imported in

light of the capacity of dairy firms for processing milk.

According to the report, farms have yielded the average of 53 tonnes per day of milk during the past year. Forty eight tonnes were produced daily during winter and 58 tonnes in summer, the study said. The production has been distributed to automated and manual dairy firms throughout the Kingdom.

The study estimated the local milk yield to be 18 tonnes per day in excess of the capacity of the processing dairy firms in winter.

Nissan recalls 237,981 cars

TOKYO (AP) — Nissan Motor Co., Japan's second largest car maker, has notified the transport ministry it will recall 237,981 passenger cars because of defective parts connecting the rear axle to the car body, the ministry said Tuesday.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Cardi Fighter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some changes in your present methods may be necessary to make new ideas workable, so don't be afraid to use your imagination in making them. Think carefully before taking any actions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A co-worker can give you some fine suggestions, so be sure to ask others for advice if you have questions. Drive carefully this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If there's some little risk you want to take, then go for it, and you can come out on top. Be sure to handle your money wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have some good ideas for improving relationships with your family, but you must act quickly to get the right results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get emotional over business affairs — stay cool and sensible. Enjoy the company of some old friends tonight.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Although you are usually quite generous by nature, this is a good time to tighten your belt and add to your assets instead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get together with some new acquain-

THE Daily Crossword



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Debt repayments exceed IMF lending by \$5.9b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF), said Monday that Third World debtors in 1987 paid back \$5.9 billion more than they borrowed from one of the major sources of help to countries in financial trouble.

New loans amounted to \$4.3 billion and repayments to \$10.2 billion, the IMF said.

One source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said most countries which have been making heavy repayments, such as South Korea and South Africa, do not need new money.

Many countries seeking more money, particularly Brazil, are reluctant to ask the IMF's help. They fear that austerity policies resulting from the strict conditions the IMF attaches to its loans could spur unrest.

It was a year in which many debtors were trying, with little success, to get new loans rather than pay back old ones. For instance, Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor, is among several countries that have refused to pay interest on many of their debts.

But there also is heavy pressure to stay on good terms with the IMF. The United States is the biggest contributor to the fund, which is owned by 152 governments, including the debtors.

The fund pointed out that it also is planning longer-term loans, for as long as 10 years at only 0.5 per cent interest. At the end of 1987, it set up the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility to lend out more than \$8 billion on these terms to the poorest countries, especially in Africa.

British banks raise interest rates

LONDON (R) — Britain's main commercial banks raised lending rates by half of a percentage point to nine per cent Monday after the Bank of England raised its rate for loans to money markets.

The announcement by the Bank of England that it would offer borrowing facilities to the discount houses at nine per cent from the current 6.75 per cent followed its warnings that monetary policy might have to be tightened.

National Westminster Bank Plc. and Barclays Bank Plc. followed the Bank of England's lead and raised their base rates to nine per cent from 8.12. Midland Bank Plc., Lloyds Bank Plc. and Citibank N.A. — the British subsidiary of Citicorp — later followed suit.

John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the increase would add £125 million (\$219 million) a year to business costs.

Base rates were lowered to 8.5 per cent in early December amid widespread fears among the international financial community that last October's stock slumps would follow through into recession.

But economists said the bid to pump more money into nervous markets that have now steadied was bad for Britain's surging economy.

Bank of England officials said the signal to raise interest rates reflected a resurgence in inflationary pressures, mainly higher wage earnings and a continuing growth in consumer spending.

Average earning increases now stand at 8.25 per cent a year after having held at 7.75 per cent since last April.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were mixed to easier in late business, showing only a short-lived rally in response to news of a number of U.S. banks cut their prime rates by 1/4 point to 8.5 per cent.

Dealers said hopes for a Wall Street rally this week have been based on speculation about lower U.S. interest rates. But the New York market fell to its lows this afternoon despite the prime rate cuts. The FTSE 100 at 1538 GMT was down 1.3 to 1,775.6 after a high of 1,784.5 at 1032 GMT.

U.S. December leading indicators fell 0.2 per cent compared with the November fall of 1.2 per cent, dampening down the dollar and outweighing the prime rate cuts, dealers here said.

Dealers said last minute worries about the prospects for Tuesday's \$9.25 billion auction of U.S. treasury three-year notes were weighing on Wall Street Tuesday.

It had been hoped the auction would attract strong demand, because prospects for a slowing in the U.S. economy and the recently stable dollar helped the U.S. bond market climb sharply in the "flight to quality" of the past few sessions.

UNDP to resume operations in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) will shortly resume operations in Lebanon after it pulled out in 1984 due to the security situation, the United Nations announced Monday.

But it will be careful about the nationality of any experts sent to the area, UNDP administrator William Draper told a news conference.

Lebanon has been embroiled in civil strife since 1976 and many foreigners have been kidnapped by various militia groups.

The resident representative in Beirut will be Ragnar Gudmundsson, a national of Iceland who is

sharp in the last 10 years to under \$700 a year, and it had now fallen into the category of a "least developed country," he said.

"It became evident that some leadership and direction was needed to support the development of a country that desperately needs help in development," he noted.

He said the UNDP operation in Lebanon would spend about \$10 million over the next three to five years.

"While I think it was probably the right thing to do to close the (UNDP) office at a time when there seemed to be a very complicated security situation, we think now the situation is now calm

enough to try again and make it a more effective programme," Draper said.

"We are going to make another try and we plan to make it stick this time," he added.

Asked about the security of technical experts sent to work on development projects, he said: "We will be careful to see that no one that goes is, by nationality, in danger."

This would "probably" rule out United States and West German nationals, he said, as well as citizens of other countries represented on the 15-nation U.N. Security Council, though he did not want to be pinned down on that point.

Gulf Air gets more access to Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Air will boost flights to Saudi Arabia under a deal to share revenue with the state-owned carrier Saudia, the head of Gulf Air said Tuesday.

Gulf Air President Ali Ibrahim Al Malki told a news conference Saudia had signed revenue-sharing agreements with Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways.

"Big concessions were made by all three parties," he said of negotiations that began a year ago.

Under the deal Gulf Air would increase passenger seats from Bahrain to the Saudi capital Riyadh and Red Sea port of Jeddah from about 500 to 1,250 in the summer schedule starting in April, Al Malki said.

Saudia currently had some

Brazil launches \$100 million debt-for-shares programme

LONDON (R) — A British and a Brazilian bank Monday launched a \$100 million stock market fund with a twist — it lets banks buy Brazilian shares by selling off loans they had made to Brazil.

The Brazilian conversion fund is run by British merchant bank Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd. and Brazil's Banco Bozano and Simonsen De Investimento S.A., which says it is the first of its kind.

It works along much the same lines as the debt-for-investment swaps that many Third World debtor countries are already using to trim their debt bills.

In these deals, the country buys back foreign currency loans with its local currency. It pays its bankers back less than it borrowed and the seller must agree to reinvest the proceeds.

The debtor cuts its debt bill and many bankers, worried that Third World loans may never be repaid in full, think selling out is worth the price.

Mexico has used such deals to build new tourist hotels. They have financed factories in Chile and Brazil.

The difference with the new fund, called the Brazil Conversion Fund, is that the seller can reinvest those proceeds in the Brazilian stock markets.

Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor, has yet to say how much it will pay to buy back the debt under this programme.

Mexico's top debt negotiator ended a tour of world financial centres Monday confident of the success of a novel scheme to swap up to \$10 billion of the country's \$105 billion debt into bonds.

However, Angel Gurria, director general of public credit, declined to predict how much would ultimately be exchanged or the discount creditor banks would have to accept under the deal.

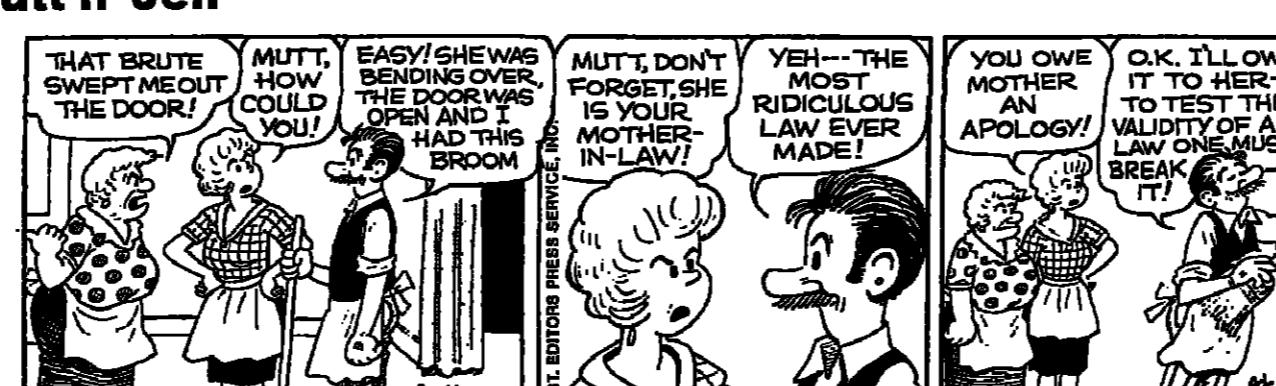
The difference with the new fund, called the Brazil Conversion Fund, is that the seller can reinvest those proceeds in the Brazilian stock markets.

"There is no doubt it is going to be a success," Gurria told Reuters after meeting here with representatives of 15 Swiss, Austrian and Italian banks. "The growing interest we have seen on our tour confirms that."

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AWREY

KEPOD

LANARC

FAHBLE

WHAT SOME YOUNG AMERICAN TOURISTS MIGHT CALL THAT MONEY THEY USE IN PARIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise word, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TRPE AHEAD CALMLY VENDOR

Answer: What the psychiatrist said when the patient complained about always forgetting things—PAY IN ADVANCE

Congressional opponents predict contra aid defeat

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan planned a pre-vote appeal for further funds for Nicaraguan contra rebels in a televised speech but opponents said they expected Congress would defeat the White House aid measure.

The House of Representatives is due to vote Wednesday on Reagan's \$36.25 million request for contra aid, which includes \$3.6 million in the military aid. If the House approves the measure, the Senate will vote on Thursday.

Reagan and his advisers have been telephoning undecided congressmen to urge them to approve the contra aid.

Reagan, who argues that only aid to the rebels can force Nicaragua's leftist government to accept peace and democracy, hoped to use a nationally televised speech to put public pressure on the Democrat-controlled Congress.

But his strategy suffered a blow when all three major U.S. networks announced they might not broadcast the speech live because Reagan's arguments for contra aid were already well known.

Such action by ABC, NBC, and CBS would relegate the speech to cable television and extracts carried in news programmes.

Democratic leaders have been urging rejection of the military aid and a private organisation calling itself "Countdown '87" has sponsored national television advertisements urging voters to put pressure on their members of Congress to reject the measure.

House Democratic leader Thomas Foley predicted Monday that the House would turn the aid request down. "I think we will see at the conclusion of the debate Wednesday a decisive rejection of this aid," Foley said.

Democratic leaders in the House and Senate had vowed not to approve military aid as long as progress was being made on a peace plan approved by all five Central American presidents in August.

But Reagan has said in recent days that only aid to maintain contra military pressure on Nicaragua's Sandinista government could make Managua accept the Central American peace plan and stop promoting Communism in the region.

"The Sandinistas haven't made one concession of their own without a threat hanging over them," Reagan told religious broadcasters Monday. "The way to democracy and peace in Nicaragua is to keep the pressure on."

Reagan aides are considering a further concession to Congress in an effort to win the aid, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters.

In Managua, Nicaragua, about 250 U.S. citizens and Nicaraguans chanting "we want peace" staged a demonstration Monday evening in front of the U.S. embassy to protest U.S. aid to the contra rebels.

About 25 Nicaraguans wounded in the war sat in wheelchairs in front of the embassy building, carrying a sign in Spanish saying, "the war wounded continue to fight for life."

The rally, which was peaceful, was sponsored by U.S. and Nicaraguan church groups. Folk singer Pete Seeger, wearing a straw hat, sang for the group.

It's a certainty," one Western diplomat said.

Cuba offers to withdraw

Meanwhile Cuba's Foreign Minister, Isidoro Malmierca, reiterated his country's offer to withdraw its military advisers from Nicaragua once the U.S.-backed contra campaign against the Sandinista government ends.

U.S. authorities have said Cuba has about 2,500 military advisers in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan government puts the number at 800.

Malmierca declared Monday that with its Central American policy, Washington "hopes to perpetuate the role of lord and master it previously exercised (in the region), and to that end it recurs openly, and in violation of the basic principles of international coexistence, to the use of force, economic warfare and political and diplomatic pressure."

His remarks came in a speech at the Foreign Ministry.

Koivisto assured of new term

HELSINKI (R) — President Mauno Koivisto looked assured of a new six-year term despite his failure to score an outright victory in Finland's two-day presidential election.

The 64-year-old Social Democrat won 47.9 per cent of the popular vote and 144 seats in a 301-member Electoral College, which will now decide the election on Feb. 15.

Koivisto needed to poll over 50 per cent to clinch victory in the first round. But with two other left-wing candidates gaining 27 seats in the Electoral College, analysts said his election was a formality.

"It's a certainty," one Western diplomat said.

Conservative Prime Minister Harry Holkeri, one of four defeated candidates, said: "I lost to the incumbent president. We all lost to Koivisto."

The result was widely seen as an endorsement of Koivisto who has steered his country into an era of rare political stability and unprecedented economic prosperity.

In a typically understated post-election comment, Koivisto said: "At least, we can say there has been no protest against the policies that have been carried through."

Koivisto, a carpenter's son, became president in 1982 and quickly placed his imprint on the turbulent political scene.

Before he came to power, governments rarely lasted a year. In its 70-year history, the country has had 64 administrations.

Diplomats said the key to Koivisto's success was his ability to establish good working relations with four successive Soviet leaders since winning power in 1982 — Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov, Konstantin Chernenko and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union twice defeated Finland in wars between 1939 and 1944 but has now come to accept its Western political system and lifestyle.

Koivisto's dominance left the other candidates struggling for second place, and a chance to establish credentials for the 1994 presidential election.

The winner of this race was agrarian centre party leader Paavo Väistönen with 20.1 per cent of the vote. He just pipped Holkeri, who gained 18.1 per cent.

Socialist Kalevi Kivistö and Communist Jouko Kajaanio won 9.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively.

North Korea retaliates against Tokyo sanctions

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea Tuesday declared a ban on diplomatic contacts with Japan in retaliation for sanctions against Pyongyang imposed after the bombing of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) jetliner.

North Korea said it would deny entry to Japanese government officials and individuals with government ties and break off talks concerning the fate of two Japanese fishermen serving 20-year sentences for alleged spying.

"We cannot but take a resolute countermeasure against the so-called sanctions taken by the Japanese government linking the KAL incident with the DPRK (North Korea)," said the Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea in a commentary.

Japan had imposed limited sanctions against North Korea last month after the destruction in November of a South Korean jetliner carrying 115 people. A woman who was a passenger on an earlier part of the flight said on Jan. 15 that she was a North Korean agent and had planted a bomb on the jet, which disappeared near Burma.

North Korea has denied any involvement in the plane's disappearance.

Tokyo's sanctions included restrictions on contacts between Japanese diplomats and North Korean officials and restrictions on the entry of North Korean officials into Japan. In addition, crewmen of North Korean ships entering Japanese ports will be given stricter scrutiny, and North Korean aircraft will not be allowed to land in Japan.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi expressed "regret" over Pyongyang's retaliatory action, but said North Korea's action was "irrelevant," an official of the prime minister's office said.

Italian government survives 2 more votes

ROME (R) — Italy's government has won two more confidence votes to help force through its 1988 budget, continually delayed by sabotage from its own deputies.

The five-party coalition led by Christian Democrat Giovanni Goria won the votes, dealing with the National Irrigation Administration chief Federico Alday who tried to parry residents' complaints about illegal dykes that had deprived their farms of water.

The government called the open confidence votes after being repeatedly defeated by its own rebellious deputies voting with the opposition in secret ballots on several clauses of the budget law.

It won two confidence votes dealing with taxes last Friday and the two Monday wind up voting on the revenue-raising clauses of the bill.

Parliamentary sources said although 25 budget clauses on public spending remained to be considered, their passage through parliament was unlikely to be as difficult as those dealing with raising revenue.

Delays to the budget have forced the government to raise

expensive provisional funds for January and February.

The six-month-old government, internally divided and widely criticised for weakness, has said that after the budget and its parallel finance bill have passed through both houses of parliament, there must be a political "clarification" among the coalition partners — Christians, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

Political sources said the "clarification" was likely to lead to the collapse of Goria's government.

The official report of the meeting between Zhao and the prince made no mention of Sihanouk's resignation Saturday as head of the three-party coalition fighting Vietnamese troops supporting Hun Sen in Kampuchea.

"If the Vietnamese invite me to talks, I will accept. If the Vietnamese bring Hun Sen along with them in the talks, I can also agree," the agency quoted the prince as saying.

"It is useless to talk with him. Two meetings were enough," Sihanouk said.

A third session of negotiations between Sihanouk and Hun Sen was scheduled to be held in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, in April.

The New China News Agency quoted Zhao as praising Sihanouk as a great patriot and for "sticking to his principles".

GENGA, Italy (R) — Eleven men and three women have emerged from deep caves after a 49-day experiment in living underground. The group, including a doctor and a television cameraman, was led by veteran cave explorer Maurizio Montaldu, who set a world record last July after living alone in an underground Grotto for 210 days. The cave dwellers looked happy and healthy as they climbed out of the cave in eastern Italy into the glare of television lights. They will undergo extensive medical tests over the next few days. After Montaldu's first experiment, doctors found his immune system and heart had suffered from the enforced isolation underground. They said he was extremely susceptible to infection and suffered from symptoms of angina for three months.

Pakistani who killed boy hanged

ISLAMABAD (R) — A man convicted of murdering a five-year-old boy to get a bowl of blood for the woman he loved was publicly hanged in central Pakistan, police said. Ten thousand people and hundreds of police watched as Mohammad Ahsan was put to death on a tripod gallows at a stadium in Multan, in Punjab province, jail officials said. He was the third man executed in public in Punjab in the past few weeks in a law-and-order drive by the provincial government. Several political organisations protested at the public execution.

France gets 464 Chagall works

PARIS (R) — The French state will receive 464 works by Russian-born artist Marc Chagall under a settlement agreed Monday between Finance Minister Edouard Balladur and Chagall's estate, the Finance Ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that the works, described as being an important part of Chagall's artistic production, would be given to French museums. The works, produced between 1901 and 1981, for four years before the artist's death in 1985, consisted of oil paintings, watercolours, books, designs, and ballet set designs, the ministry said. Chagall, who was born in pre-revolutionary Russia, moved to France in the 1920s. He is best-known for his brightly-coloured paintings with whimsical motifs including clowns, rabbits, fiddlers and lovers.

Handshake ends Dickens book dispute

BOWES, England (AP) — Descendants of Charles Dickens and the real-life schoolmaster on whom he based a villainous character in the novel "Nicholas Nickleby" met and ended 150 years of ill-will with a handshake. Christopher Dickens, the Victorian writer's great-great grandson, came face-to-face with Bowes and Ted Shaw, whose great-great-grandfather William Shaw was Dickens' model for Wackford Squeers, the fictional headmaster of the book's infamous school Dotheboys Hall. In real life, William Shaw was headmaster of Shaw's Academy, a school in the village of Bowes in County Durham in north east England. The building, Dotheboys Hall, still exists but is no longer a school.

Soviet train with flammable liquid derails, 2,000 evacuated

MOSCOW (AP) — About 2,000 people were evacuated and 12 rescue workers hospitalised after a train carrying a poisonous and flammable liquid derailed in the Volga River city of Yaroslavl, Soviet media said Tuesday.

In the accident early Monday, seven rail cars, including three tank cars carrying the unidentified toxic chemical, left the tracks 150 metres from a bridge across the Volga, the Sovietskaya Rossiya daily said.

One of the tank cars fell on its side and broke open on impact,

and the volatile liquid started flowing from a ruptured hatch, the paper said.

Residents in a half-kilometre zone around the accident site were evacuated, and about 2,000 people left their homes and other buildings, the paper said.

A half-hour after the accident, a repair train arrived on the scene. Soldiers from the chemical weapons forces tried to close the hatch of the damaged tank car but were unsuccessful, the paper said.

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Aquino calls for more work, less talk

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino Tuesday rebuked two senior officials, one for making a long-winded speech and the other for not attending quickly to people's complaints.

Aquino gave a rare display of presidential pique when she and cabinet members visited her home province of Tarlac to inspect newly elected local officials.

Public Works Secretary Juanito Ferri, who was supposed to explain the government's programmes, felt the presidential bark when he gave a discourse on how lucky people were to live in Aquino's home province.

"Talk about the projects," Aquino said, cutting him off.

Aquino did not spare her National Irrigation Administration chief Federico Alday who tried to parry residents' complaints about illegal dykes that had deprived their farms of water.

When Alday said he could not act on complaints unless he received an official report, Aquino snapped: "Why do you have to wait for a report? Why don't you send someone out there or go there yourself?"

Aquino's unprecedented outbursts followed her announcement at the weekend that implementation of 72 foreign-funded projects costing about \$1.8 billion had been delayed.

She told television interviewers the government could not take up other foreign loan offers because of the lack of well-prepared projects that could be immediately implemented.

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